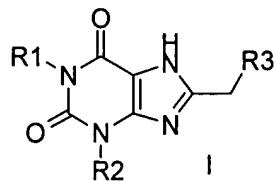


**Amendments To The Specification**

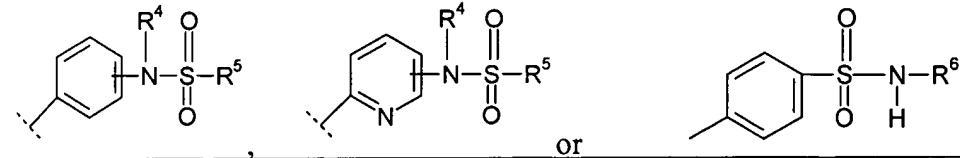
Please delete and replace abstract on page 139 of the specification with the following replacement abstract. Added matter relative to the previous version of the abstract is indicated by underlining and deleted matter is indicated by strikethrough or brackets:

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention is a sulfonamide substituted xanthine derivative of formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R1 is lower alkyl, lower alkyl substituted by phenyl, or lower alkyl substituted by halogen substituted phenyl[,]; R2 is lower alkyl or lower alkyl substituted by lower cycloalkyl; and R3 is:



~~are as defined in the specification.~~ Compounds of formula I and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or prodrugs thereof show activity as modulators of gluconeogenesis.